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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/545,272	04/07/2000	Senthil Sivakumar	CISCO-1787	1978

7590 06/05/2003

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EXAMINER

MILLS, DONALD L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2662

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SR

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/545,272

Applicant(s)

SIVAKUMAR, SENTHIL

Examiner

Donald L Mills

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 April 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 20, line 13 currently reads as "FCU 18" which the examiner believes should be corrected to -- FCU 28 --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Flanders et al (US 6,041,058) hereinafter referred to as Flanders.

In regards to claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 Flanders discloses, *a method/filtering module for controlling flooding in a bridged network having a bridge connected to a plurality of networks* (Bridge/router, inherently connects a local area network to another local area network that uses the same protocol, is disclosed in the abstract). The method/filtering module comprising: *allowing broadcast flooding for a first limited time period and disallowing broadcast flooding for a second time period* (Referring to Figure 9, a non-unicast firewall filter with a counter is utilized to filter broadcast frames, in column 9, lines 10-21).

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Regarding claims 6 and 8 Flanders further discloses a bridge device comprising, *a data structure to maintain flood control data/means for maintaining flood control data* (Referring to Figure 8, protocol filters are implemented via a protocol filter table **154** that contains a specification of whether to filter broadcast frames, in column 8, lines 66-67).

In regards to claims 2 and 10 Flanders discloses a method/program storage device, *allowing and disallowing of broadcast flooding for each MAC address independently* (Referring to Figure 3 and 8, the protocol type filters are applied to all MAC unicast, multicast, and broadcast frames, in column 9, lines 2-4).

In regards to claims 3 and 11 Flanders discloses a method/program storage device comprising, *a data structure to determine when to allow or disallow broadcast flooding* (Referring to Figure 8, protocol filters are implemented via a protocol filter table **154** that contains a specification of whether to filter broadcast frames, in column 8, lines 66-67).

In regards to claims 4 and 12 Flanders discloses a method/program storage device comprising, *a data structure that is a filter table* (Referring to Figure 8, protocol filters are implemented via a protocol filter table **154** that contains a specification of whether to filter broadcast frames, in column 8, lines 66-67).

In regards to claims 5 and 13 Flanders discloses a method/program storage device comprising, *a filter table that contains MAC address information with associated flooding time period* (Referring to Figure 9, a counter, which can be reset at predefined intervals, tracks broadcast frames and compares the count against a threshold to determine whether the frame should be filtered, column 9, lines 15-17).

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In regards to claim 7 Flanders discloses a filtering module comprising, *a data structure that includes a filter table containing MAC address information with associated flooding time period* (Referring to Figure 9, a counter, which can be reset at predefined intervals, tracks broadcast frames and compares the count against a threshold to determine whether the frame should be filtered, column 9, lines 15-17).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Chang et al. US5539745A

Onishi et al. US5210748A

Fiammante US6081532A

Sekine et al. US6101188A

Rittle et al. US6111892A

Hofmann US5809076A

Kotchey et al. US5805594A

Baker et al. US5793954A

Short US5633865A

Rahnema US5596722A


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Mills whose telephone number is 703-305-7869. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on 703-305-4744. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-6743 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

DLM
May 29, 2003



HASSAN KIZOU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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